

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR

Design for Children's Clothing

1.9  
86 155R

A dialogue between Miss Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Mr. Morse Salisbury, Office of Information, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC stations, Monday, November 1, 1937.

--ooOoo--

MR. SALISBURY:

Here we are in Washington. And as we announced last week, we'll be giving you the Agricultural Outlook Reports one right after another for this week and next. This makes it necessary to change our regular schedule somewhat. So again Ruth Van Deman has very accommodatingly shifted over from Thursday. And she's here now to give you her report from the Bureau of Home Economics. Ruth, if you don't mind, there's just one complaint I'd like to register against your Apple Recipes - - -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Why, certainly. Let's have it.

MR. SALISBURY:

A note came in - - -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Yes?

MR. SALISBURY:

From the mail room - - -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

H-m-m

MR. SALISBURY:

"Mail room swamped. Requests for Apple Recipes beat all records. Need more help. Will be days before we can catch up."

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Is that all?

MR. SALISBURY:

All?

MISS VAN DEMAN:

I'm relieved.

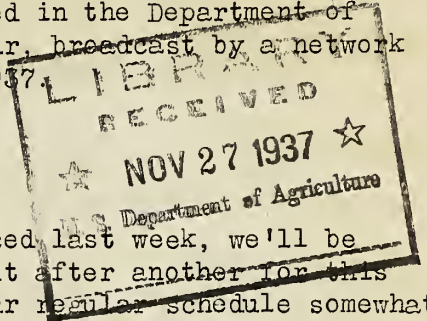
MR. SALISBURY:

Relieved?

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Yes. I was afraid somebody had found a mistake in one of the recipes. Salt in place of sugar or something like that. Those typographical errors will happen you know.

- over -



MR. SALISBURY:

Apple-pied type, I suppose it would be this time.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

(Now who's running true to type?)

MR. SALISBURY:

(Running or punning.) But seriously, Ruth, if you have any more new bulletins to announce - - -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

But I have, Morse, one today, - look here.

MR. SALISBURY:

What's this?

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Our new Children's Clothing bulletin. It just came from the press.

MR. SALISBURY:

Well. This looks good.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Yes. As good as Clarice Scott and Margaret Smith know how to make it.

MR. SALISBURY:

Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes. Farmers' Bulletin 1778. I take it this is another practical application of your textile research.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

That's it. And like most of our home economics research it serves both producers and consumers by pointing out better methods of utilizing agricultural products. In this particular project it's cotton and wool.

MR. SALISBURY:

Which are of course the two textile fibers of greatest importance to American agriculture.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Basic, in fact. That's why long ago the Congress of the United States saw that scientific study of these textile fibers, as fabrics for clothing and household articles, was needed to parallel the work on methods of production. That is, if American agriculture is to be properly served.

MR. SALISBURY:

And that led to the act establishing the Bureau of Home Economics, if I remember right. And to the legislation authorizing it to conduct research such as this on the utilization of textile fabrics in children's clothes.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Yes, that's the background. And of course cotton and wool are the two fibers best adapted to children's clothes. Cotton can stand the wear and tear of frequent washing. And it generally lasts until the garments are outgrown and have to be replaced anyway. And wool is ideal for outdoor coats and warm garments. It's warm without being heavy and bulky.

MR. SALISBURY:

Then wasn't your Bureau the first to design sun suits, following the discovery that the ultra-violet rays in sunlight help to keep children from having rickets.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Among the first anyway.

MR. SALISBURY:

(I thought I had that straight.)

MISS VAN DEMAN:

And also to suggest self-help features as a means of helping youngsters to dress themselves and develop self-reliance.

MR. SALISBURY:

That's the modern theory.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

But ahead of these self-help ideas, Miss Scott always puts the comfort of the child. Every one of the designs illustrated in this bulletin have been worked out with the comfort of the child in mind. And they all have been tried out on real children in action.

MR. SALISBURY:

And photographed in action. This little chap, for instance, scrambling up these steps in a play suit, I guess it is.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

A one-piece winter playsuit. Turn over a couple of pages and you'll find a list of all the points worked into that one design - - -

MR. SALISBURY:

Here?

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Yes.

MR. SALISBURY:

I see. "One-piece suit for children between 2 and 6." "Wide raglan sleeves with large armholes that fit easily over sweaters."

MISS VAN DEMAN:

(Same idea as our sport clothes.)

MR. SALISBURY:

"Knit wristlets that keep out cold and hold a loose sleeve in place." (That's good sense.)

MISS VAN DEMAN:

And so's the "soft rolling neck finish that keeps out cold but doesn't restrict the movement of head and neck."



MR. SALISBURY:

And I'm glad to see this. "Good-sized pockets placed at hand level."

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Look at the picture of the little fellow with his hands in his pockets.

MR. SALISBURY:

Complete masculine contentment!

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Some smile. Now the fabric ...

MR. SALISBURY:

"Firm, lightweight, flexible, suited in warmth to climate."

MISS VAN DEMAN:

And "a becoming color and one that also serves as protection against traffic accidents." Don't miss that.

MR. SALISBURY:

That's a good idea. Bright colors the driver of a car can see ahead of him on the highway.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Well, that just shows the kind of careful thought that has gone into all these designs and the suggestions for fabrics. This bulletin doesn't pretend to cover the whole subject of children's clothes. It just has to do with the garments our Bureau has worked on so far. Slips and sleeping garments for infants. Rompers for creeping babies. Suits and dresses for 3- and 4-year olds. Summer outfits. Winter playsuits. And a very cleverly designed self-help bib for a small child.

MR. SALISBURY:

Ruth, I'm sure these pictures and all this text here would be helpful to a woman in selecting clothes for her youngsters, but suppose she wanted to make some outfits like these -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

I'm glad you mentioned that. We don't have any patterns to distribute ourselves. Being a Government agency we couldn't go into that. But several of the commercial companies have reproduced these designs in patterns that are sold in the usual way.

MR. SALISBURY:

On the same principle that the Bureau of Plant Industry turns over its new varieties of plants to commercial nurseries and seedmen.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Exactly. Our job is to do the original work on the designs. Then somebody else can take care of the distribution.

MR. SALISBURY:

But the Bureau of Home Economics has a supply of this new bulletin to send out, surely -

MISS VAN DEMAN:

Oh, yes. And, in case somebody didn't get that title, "Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes" ---

MR. SALISBURY:

Yes, I'll repeat that. "Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes." Farmers' Bulletin 1778. As usual send your requests to the Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

And thank you, Ruth, for bringing us the news of this new bulletin on Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes, so promptly. We'll be looking for you again on Thursday, November 11, to give us the Outlook for Farm Family Living for 1938.

MISS VAN DEMAN:

I'll be here. And goodbye, everybody, until then.

